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Rotokawa School (RELLCO Cluster) – A shift in teacher's beliefs and practice 2009



The Context:

Teachers developed a more informed awareness of current pedagogy and the needs of our students as 21st century learners. Primary school focus as part of the RELLCO ICT PD cluster in Rotorua.

The focus:

In the past, the whole-school focus has been on attitudes changed from "this is the way it is" to "this is the way it should/could be". This year, teachers have developed an improved understanding of the needs of their students.

The rationale:

We chose to focus on the attitudinal change of teachers at Rotokawa school, so that this would ultimately effect their classroom practice, teaching instruction, methodologies - to help improve student learning attitudes and outcomes.

What did we do?

We spent some time breaking down our "new" vision into what it actually means (our intents), what it will look like in classrooms, what the values are that contribute to the vision and how we will provide opportunities for our students to practice these things.



[View presentation here](#)

What happened?

From our vision, we have broken down two whole-school learning goals:

1. To lift student achievement by focussing on improved teacher practice
2. To develop a school curriculum using inquiry

Teachers were paired with a buddy teacher to develop the goals into an action plan, including professional readings, evidence collection opportunities and next steps. Time as set aside once a term to discuss these with colleagues.

[Nicky King reflection \(sound recording\)](#)

What did you learn?

This is having the effect of focusing teachers on a small part of their practice and also leads into our focus on developing teaching as inquiry. Teachers are looking learning and teaching material more carefully, learning to use formative assessments appropriately and provide appropriate learning opportunities for their students.

Next steps:

Outcomes from this 'teaching as inquiry' process has meant wider and more frequent consultation and collaboration with students and parents, so that students, staff and the wider community is reflected in the school vision.

For full details of this story, including links to research and readings, go to

<http://centre4.core-ed.net/21752/79305>

** A special thank you to Lorraine Watchorn (RELLCO Cluster facilitator) for sharing these resources.*

External Links

<http://centre4.core-ed.net/21752/79305>

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